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897 Delmas Av
San Jose, Ca 95125
August 2, 2008

Mayor Reed and City Councilmembers:

Greater Gardner Coalition NAC requests that the City Council defer the ballot measure to use parkland for Fire Station 37 until after the Fire Department completes its modeling of potential mitigation measures to include demographic and housing forecasts in modeling the proposed improvements. We further request the City Council conduct further outreach to the community and explore additional locations that would achieve a greater gain in service levels.

If station 37 is built in the proposed location Greater Gardner Coalition NAC is concerned that due to the overlap of its coverage area with Fire Station 6 there will be pressure to close the older station. We are concerned that Station 30, on Auzerai, will then become overburdened with the addition of a portion of the current coverage area of Station 6, especially in light of the plans to add significant high density housing and business developments around Delmas Park, Diridon Station, Midtown, and the western portion of downtown.

Greater Gardner Coalition NAC is a neighborhood of older vintage homes on narrow streets with limited access, and aging demographics. This area is a high risk for fire and EMS service. We are concerned that increased density in other areas served by Station 30 will require a second due fire engine from Fire Station 37 to become our primary service provider. We believe this is too far away to meet the needs of our community.

We request that there should be modeling using historic and projected data to show the impact on our neighborhood of a new Fire Station located at Curtner and Lincoln, the closing of Fire Station 6, as well as the impact of densification just north of our Neighborhood on our levels of service.

Greater Gardner Coalition NAC thanks the Mayor and Council for considering that the measure to use parkland for Fire Station 37 be deferred until after the Fire Department has completed its modeling for impacts of mitigations and densification. We also respectfully request that the Mayor, City Council and City Manager conduct an open Community Outreach Process in the decision on where to locate such important services to the community.

Sincerely,

Harvey S. Darnell

Harvey Darnell
Chair Greater Gardner Coalition NAC

CC: Debrah Figone, City Manager